

Winner selected to design Papago Trail

The team of "Portals and Loops: Ways Along the Papago Trail" was awarded first place in the Papago Trails Design Competition, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts' New Public Works Initiative program, SRP and the cities of Phoenix, Tempe and Scottsdale.

The winning team was one of four finalists selected from 46 submissions from multi-disciplinary teams across the nation with experience and qualifications in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, public art, graphic design and interpretive planning. The other finalist teams were assembled by: Singer/EI Dorado, Inc., Olin Partnership/Rick Joy Architects and StoSS landscape urbanism/Office dA/James Carpenter.

Team name:

Portals and Loops: Ways Along the Papago Salado Trail

Team leaders:

Christopher Alt, Architect

Dan Hoffman, Architect

Team members:

- Michael Boucher, *Landscape Architecture*
- BJ Krivanek, *Environmental Graphic Artist*
- Laurie Lundquist, *Natural and Mechanical Systems Artist*
- Nancy Dallett, *Historian/Interpretive Planner*
- Harvey Bryan, *Building Technology Specialist*
- Entellus, Inc., *Engineers*

The challenge

The fulfillment of this trail as an aesthetically cohesive, fully functional public pathway will grow from the vision of the winners of this competition. Conceived in 1992, The Papago Trail traverses 11 miles through Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Tempe in Arizona, linking many of the area's most valued historic, natural, cultural and recreational attractions.

Located in the very heart of the Valley's metropolitan area, the trail winds through a Sonoran Desert landscape that includes parks, lagoons, greenbelts, historic and prehistoric landmarks. The trail system consists of paved pathways, bike lanes and natural walkways, inviting cycling, jogging and hiking.

Improvements have been completed on various segments; however, the fulfillment of this trail as an aesthetically cohesive, fully functional public pathway will grow from the creative vision of the winner of this competition.

"The competition attracted participation from some of the nation's most talented designers today," noted Ron McCoy, competition adviser and director of the ASU Architectural School.

"The talent of the four finalist teams and their provocative proposals to enhance the experience of the Papago Trail made the task of selecting the grand prize winner challenging," said Fritz Steiner, one of the judges and dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Texas, at Austin.

The winning edge

The judges were impressed with the overall strength of the "Portals and Loops" entry, finding it to be compelling, clever and feasible.

"The Portals, with beautifully designed cooling towers incorporating interpretive exhibits and resting places, could easily become landmarks within the region," said McCoy. He added that the subtle beauty and realistic implementation strategy of the "Portals and Loops" design gave it a competitive edge over the ambitious plan of close contender StoSS/dA, which proposed new elements of infrastructure that would have "transformed our understanding and experience of the Papago Salado region" according to McCoy.

Entries were judged on their creation of a compelling overall vision and a strategic plan for implementation of the improvements, design excellence, a coordinated and consistent treatment of architecture, landscape architecture, public art, interpretation and urban design issues and responsiveness to the unique setting and context of the Papago Salado region.

Judges

- Cheryl Barton, FASLA
The Office of Cheryl Barton, San Francisco, CA
- Eddie Jones, Principal
Jones Studio, Phoenix, AZ
- Reed Kroloff, Editor in Chief
Architecture Magazine, New York, NY
- Tom Leader, Principal
Tom Leader Studio, Berkeley, CA
- Fritz Steiner, Dean
University of Texas, School of Architecture, Austin, TX
- Deborah Whitehurst, Principal
Freeman/Whitehurst Group, Phoenix, AZ

- Competition Advisor
Ron McCoy, AIA, Professor and Director
Arizona State University, School of Architecture, Tempe, AZ

For more information about the competition, contact Debbie Abele, executive director, Papago Salado Association, (480) 517-9306.